of Morphology, Anatomy, Taxonomy, Physiology and Molecular Biology. All these disciplines are excellently integrated with classic and modern Genetics and Biochemistry.

In the first section of the book, the author covers all the basic issues relevant to Plant Patterning. It covers plant hormones, the cytoskeleton, phylogeny, taxonomy, gene duplication, regulation of gene expression and systems biology. The second part then goes on to deal with specific organs. Patterning of the Angiosperm embryo, the shoot apical meristem, the root, transition to flowering, the angiosperm leaf, flowers and their parts.

Plant biologists in general, academics and students should find this book of great benefit. It is essential that it should be on the shelves of University and Research Institution Libraries.

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Commercialising Medicinal Plants — A Southern African Guide, Nicci Diederichs (Ed.), 2007, African Sun Media, Matieland, Soft cover, 216 pages, Price: R180.00, ISBN: 978 1 919980 83 6, Email: africansunmedia@sun.ac.za

Over the last fifteen years it has become very clear that the traditional use of medicinal plants in South Africa is escalating. The net result is that it is becoming obvious that provision has to be made to protect the valuable biodiversity in South Africa. It is realized by many that uncontrolled harvesting/gathering from the wild must be tempered in some way. This control is necessary to ensure plant survival, protect the income of traditional healers, and ensure sustainability of an essential and valuable industry. One that touches the lives of many millions in Africa. It is therefore with pleasure and great satisfaction that I welcome the appearance of this book on "Commercialising Medicinal Plants" on the shelves of book stores.

Medicinal plants are now universally recognized as essential for a number of social issues in southern Africa and the rest of the world. This book brings together a lot of knowledge and highlights some of the major issues and challenges of the future. It covers the question of unsustainable harvesting from the wild; poor regulation and quality control of products sold; the erosion of cultural identity by big commercial companies; and the fact that the industry is large, yet poorly regulated, in terms of health standards.

The Editor of the book is to be congratulated on bringing information on the commercial aspects together and identifying the major issues that will overcome obstacles to ensure sensitive and appropriate development of this valuable and indispensable resource.

This book will be of great help to students working in the field of ethnobotany. It is well illustrated and makes good reading for academics, students, nurserymen, policy makers and the general public.

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Handbook of Molecular Technologies in Crop Disease Management, P. Vidhyasekaran (Ed.), 2007, Haworth Food and Agricultural Products Press, An Imprint of the Haworth Press Inc., New York, London Oxford, 10 Alice street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580, USA, Price: $54.95, Paper Back, ISBN 13:-978-1-56022-266-8, Website: www.HaworthPress.com

The greatest challenge to crop production is to overcome the enormous losses caused by different pests, weeds and diseases. Great losses are reported yearly and conventional chemical protection, despite being effective still cannot completely overcome these. Even with extensive chemical protection almost half of the yields are lost either due to the improper use of the plant protective agents or due to post-harvest inefficiency. No doubt, comprehensive and science-based plant protection could reduce this drastically. However, this requires a continuous fight against diseases, pests and weeds causing headaches for both farmers and scientists alike, particularly to overcome emerging new diseases and epidemics. The revolution in molecular biology opened new horizons for plant protection. There are new tools for detection of diseases at early stages, and to monitor epidemics. Modern breeding technologies include gene pyramiding technology for resistance breeding. Transgenic technology has been introduced into daily agricultural practice more than a decade ago. Thus the transgenic era had already begun. Today alternative protection technologies are also envisaged to activate plant defenses against 'intruders', and biological control is starting to be more effective and is based on emerging scientific knowledge. This book attempts to give an overview of the molecular tools used in crop disease management. However, the author failed to meet